



United States
Office of Personnel Management

Health Aid and Technician Series

GS-0640

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Additional Available Guidance

See [Digest of Significant Classification Decisions & Opinions, Vol. 13](#) for additional guidance on supervisory controls over emergency room work.

**Workforce Compensation and Performance Service
Classification Programs Division
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SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes positions involving nonprofessional work of a technical, specialized, or support nature in the field of health or medicine when the work is of such generalized, specialized, or miscellaneous nature that there is no other more appropriate series. Such work is either (1) characteristic of two or more specialized nonprofessional series in the [Medical, Hospital, Dental, and Public Health Group, GS-0600](#), where no one type of work controls the qualification requirements, or (2) sufficiently new, unique, or miscellaneous that it is not specifically included in a specialized nonprofessional series in the Group.

NOTE: The GS-0640 series replaces entirely and without change the Health Aid and Technician Series formerly numbered GS-0699.

INCLUSIONS

This series is designed as a "catchall" for nonprofessional positions in health and medical work for which no other adequate series coverage exists. Thus, it covers "mixed" positions, those which involve a combination of two or more technical functions characteristic of other technician series in the Medical, Hospital, Dental, and Public Health Group, or positions involving work which is sufficiently new, unique, or miscellaneous that the positions are not more appropriately classified in any other technician series in the Medical, Hospital, Dental, and Public Health Group, GS-600.

Most "mixed" positions are appropriately classified in a specific series because one type of work is usually paramount in terms of requiring highest skill and knowledges. Such a position is classified in the series covering that requirement.

"Mixed" positions in this series are characterized by knowledge and skill requirements typical of two or more technician series in this group, where no one type of work is series controlling and where the combination is not specifically included in another series.

EXCLUSIONS

The following types of positions are excluded from this series:

1. Professional positions in the GS-0600, Medical, Hospital, Dental, and Public Health Group, which are of a mixed and general miscellaneous nature, and which do not fall within the definition of an established specialized series. See the [General Health Science Series, GS-0601](#).
2. Positions which primarily involve the operation of various medical machines, devices, or equipment. See the [Medical Machine Technician Series, GS-0649](#).
3. Positions which primarily involve nonprofessional technical work characteristic of other technician series in the [Medical, Hospital, Dental, and Public Health Group, GS-0600](#).

4. Positions of a "mixed" nature which involve nonprofessional technical work in medical care functions at a penal or correctional institution requiring job experience and training which enables them to give nursing care and treatment and to perform work in at least two other fields such as laboratory analysis, medical X-ray, pharmacy, etc. Such positions are classified in the [Medical Technical Assistant Series, GS-0650](#).
5. Positions which primarily involve clerical work in support of medical or health functions or activities. See the appropriate clerical series.

TITLES

In view of the diversity of positions which will be classified in this series, titles are not being prescribed. However, *Health Aid* is the suggested title for GS-1, GS-2, and GS-3 positions and *Health Technician* is the suggested title for positions at grades GS-4 and above.

The prefix "Supervisory" is to be used for those positions which include significant [supervisory responsibilities](#).

Specific titles indicating separate specializations are not suggested because in such a broad series the range of possibilities is too great. The general principles governing position titles apply. Titles may be descriptive of the specialized area of the work of the position, e.g., technician work supportive to the work of the optometrist, ophthalmologist, audiologist, or speech pathologist, etc., or of the "mixed" nature of the position, e.g., a position involving work in both medical radiology technician functions and medical technician functions. Where considered appropriate, agencies may use organizational or other secondary titles for their convenience in identifying positions with distinctive qualification requirements when using the suggested title of "Health Technician."

GRADE LEVELS

The pattern of duties and responsibilities of positions in this series is so diverse and varied that grade-level standards have not been developed. Nonsupervisory positions are evaluated by reference to standards for other nonprofessional technical positions in the [GS-0600, Medical, Hospital, Dental and Public Health Group](#).

Supervisory positions should be evaluated by reference to the [Supervisory Grade-Evaluation Guide](#), Part I.